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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 13 October 2009 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This is our third letter in less than a month that we have sent in regards to Israel's increasingly aggressive and illegal actions against the Palestinian inhabitants in occupied East Jerusalem. Among the illegal actions committed by Israel, the occupying Power, is its continuation to construct new illegal settlement housing units while expanding its already existing illegal ones. Such actions, while clearly violating all international norms and Israeli obligations as an occupying Power, are also a clear statement of Israeli disdain towards the clear international position in rejection of all settlement activities.

In yet another episode of Israeli violations committed against the Palestinian people, today, 13 October 2009, Israeli occupying forces forcibly evicted a Palestinian family from their home in Beit Hanina, in occupied East Jerusalem, before demolishing it. Israel's machine of destruction and discrimination then moved on to another house, still under construction, bringing the hopes of yet another family to have the security of a home tumbling down. These two illegal demolitions bring the number of Palestinian homes demolished in occupied East Jerusalem since 2004 to over 420 under the cynical pretext that these homes lack construction permits.

Such actions are a stark and alarming reflection of a prejudicial and criminal policy towards Palestinians and expose a consistent policy to drive Palestinians out of the occupied City to create new, false realities on the ground. Moreover, these actions prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the current extremist Israeli government is determined to destroy any chances for a just and peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict, which can only be resolved through an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Surely, this Israeli policy will fail, as it has during the past four decades of its ruthless occupation. Palestinians are determined to remain steadfast on their land,

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the land of their ancestors, and determined to bring their eternal capital to life despite the occupation's ruthless policies of destruction and economic siege. It will take more than just the Palestinian people's steadfastness to end Israel's oppression, displacement and depopulation of an occupied people. Thus, the international community cannot turn a blind eye to its moral and legal responsibilities in this regard.

Israel is not above international law and must not be allowed to be treated as such nor should it be allowed to flout the will of the international community, which has been clearly represented in several relevant United Nations resolutions. Allowing Israel's continued disregard seriously undermines our international political system and dangerously challenges the ongoing and genuine efforts to empower the United Nations bodies to fulfil their legal and moral obligations.

We urge the international community to take a clear and determined stance against all forms of Israeli aggression, including the above mentioned. This is essential to preserve the credibility of international law and international humanitarian law, which we consider the only framework for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 345 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 October 2009 (A/ES-10/464-S/2009/513), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations